GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:237
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
JAIL REFORMS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a two-member Committee for Jail Reforms in 1983;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether these recommendations were implemented in the jails of the country including Tihar Jail of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) to (e): The Govt. of India constituted an All India Jail Reforms Committee in 1980 headed by Justice A.N. Mulla (Retired) comprising of six members including the Chairman and the Member Secretary. The Committee gave its report in 1983.

Several recommendations relating to prison buildings, living conditions in prison, training of prison personnel, strengthening of security, providing medical and psychiatric services to prisoners and providing facilities to women prisoners and their children were made. Majority of these recommendations pertained to the State Governments. `Prison` being a State subject, recommendations pertaining to State Governments were forwarded to them for appropriate necessary action.

Although `Prisons` is a State subject, keeping in mind the pressing need for improving the condition of jails and reducing the overcrowding in prisons, the government of India has been providing central assistance to the State Governments to supplement their efforts in improving the condition of prisons and prisoners under the scheme of Modernization of Prisons since 1987. However, the quantum of assistance provided from 1987 to 2001 was not found adequate, therefore, Central Government introduced a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 to be implemented over a period of five years with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crores on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for the construction of additional jails, repair and renovation of existing jails, improvement in sanitation and water supply and construction of staff quarter for prison personnel.